

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01275 111003Z
ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01
INT-05 /078 W
-----041976 111045Z /10

P R 110400Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3571
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1275

TOKYO FOR RFA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP GUAM PASS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PP, XU
SUBJECT: MORE ON PNG DESIRE FOR BILATERAL FISHING AGREEMENT

REF: PORT MORESBY 1252

1. GIVEN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG GPNG POSITION OUTLINED
REFTEL, EMBOFF MET WITH GEOFFREY DABB AND PAT LAVENDER,
THE TWO GPNG LEGAL ADVISORS MOST INVOLVED IN FISHERIES,
TO SEEK FURTHER BACKGROUND, PARTICULARLY LICENSING POLICY
AND POSSIBLE IMPACT ON SPRFO.

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2. DABB AND LAVENDER, GENUINELY TAKEN ABACK, FIRST REACTED
BY SAYING ONE MUST REALIZE THIS A MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT
NOT RUN BY TECHNICIANS. HOWEVER, THEY NOT SURE THAT
CHAN-THROUGH-OLEWALE STATEMENTS REFLECTED A CLEARED
GOVERNMENT POSITION. DABB SAID CHAN LONG WORRIED ABOUT
DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF APPEARING TO
SURRENDER SOVEREIGNTY TO AMERICA BUT HE DOUBTED THAT

CHAN WOULD HAVE INSISTED ON BILATERAL HAD HE SEEN EMBASSY NOTE (BASED ON STATE 175327) WHICH STATED USG NOT IN POSITION TO NEGOTIATE BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR ACCESS TO PNG ZONE FOR US TUNA VESSELS. LAVENDER SAID THEY WOULD GET NOTE TO CHAN SOONEST.

3. ON OTHER HAND, DABB SAID GPNG HAD ALWAYS STOOD FIRM ON QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT LICENSING TUNA BOATS WOULD NOT IMPINGE ON SOVEREIGNTY, WOULD PROVIDE INCOME TO PNG AND WOULD AVOID CONFRONTATION NEITHER NATION WANTS. DABB AND LAVENDER SAID THEY, FISHERIES DIRECTOR PETER WILSON AND OTHER TECHNICIANS AGREED FULLY AND THAT ALL RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL HAD BEEN UNANIMOUS ON THIS. DABB REITERATED BELIEF GPNG HAD NOT REACHED A CLEARED POSITION AND SAID HE WOULD BRING EMBASSY NOTE, PARTICULARLY, TO CHAN'S ATTENTION.

4. QUESTIONED AS TO IMPACT RIGID POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY MIGHT HAVE ON SPRFO, DABB REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS PNG WAS CONCERNED, THERE WAS NO CONFLICT. PNG WILL PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SPRFO. IT DOES NOT BELIEVE DRAFT CONVENTION TOOK AWAY FROM COASTAL STATES THE RIGHT TO FIX TERMS OF ACCESS OR TO DECIDE WHO COULD FISH THEIR ZONES. WHAT CONVENTION DID WAS TO COMMIT COASTAL STATE TO PERMIT OTHERS TO COME INTO ITS ZONE TO FISH IF ITS OWN
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FISHERMEN DID NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO TAKE OPTIMUM CATCH, BASED IN ALL PROBABILITY ON INFO TO BE DEVELOPED BY SPRFO'S RESEARCH.

5. IN THIS REGARD, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S VIEWS AS TO HOW LICENSING SHOULD BE HANDLED ONCE SPRFO IS ESTABLISHED. CAN GPNG POSITION, AS OUTLINED ABOVE BY DABB, BE SUSTAINED UNDER ARTICLE VII (C) AND ARTICLE VIII 1? IS GPNG POSITION PROTECTED BY ARTICLE VII (D)?
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